



Letter of Welcome and Introduction to The Weddings Policy of the Parish of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny

VERY REVEREND CONOR CUNNINGHAM PP VF
THE RECTORY, LISDOONVARNA, CO. CLARE

065 7074142
PARISHOFFICE@LISDOON.IE

a cháirde,

First of all, I offer my sincere congratulations to you both for finding each other, for loving each other, and for wanting to ask the Risen Lord Jesus to strengthen and supercharge your love with the power of his divine love, by raising your union to the dignity of a Christian sacrament. These are huge life-transforming blessings and I join you in thanking God for them.

You are probably reading these pages because you are enquiring about the possibility of getting married in one of the four beautiful Churches of this parish:

Corpus Christi Church in Lisdoonvarna,
Saint Augustine's Church in Kilshanny,
Holy Rosary Church in Doolin or
Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Toovahera.

I would certainly like to guide and help you as much as I can in discerning if this is going to be a possibility for you, and to do this properly I need to share with you some key considerations.

First of all, if the bride or groom are resident and actively-supportive parishioners of this parish, everything possible will be done to help book, plan and arrange a beautiful, prayerful Catholic wedding for you on the date of your choosing, in your local Church, and with your own Celebrant/Solemniser or with the Parish Priest of this parish or his delegate. Journeying with his own parishioners who are getting married is one of the most joyful and fulfilling duties of being a parish priest!

As you know, our parish is situated in one of the most beautiful parts of Ireland and attracts huge numbers of tourists and visitors every year. We try to make them all feel very welcome when they come to share in Holy Mass with us on Sundays and weekdays. However, being so close to the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, the Aran Islands and other spectacular attractions means that we also get very many wedding requests from outside of our parish. As this is a large parish which only has one priest - and no administrative staff - it is not possible for us to accept every request for weddings from people who are not parishioners.

As a Christian pastor I also want to do my best to ensure that couples considering marriage in this parish are helped to understand the crucial distinction between a State marriage and the Catholic Sacrament of Matrimony, so that every couple can make a good decision about their wedding which is authentic and without pretence. When couples who are not parishioners request a wedding in this parish it can be difficult to assess their faith-development and their understanding of the sacrament. For this reason I encourage such couples to journey with their own local priests from the very beginning of their marriage preparations and to arrange a

recomendation from them as to their parishioners' readiness to enter into the sacrament of matrimony.

For both of these reasons - administrative limitations and pastoral concerns - some requests from non-parishioners for weddings in this parish may not be accepted.

In general however, when it is established with the help of their local priests that a couple is well-disposed towards the sacrament and practicing the Catholic faith, our parish policy is to be hospitable to every couple and to accept as many wedding booking requests as we can.

In the case of couples getting married here who are not of this parish it is best if they can bring their own priest friend or family member to serve as Celebrant/Solemniser. If this is not possible, and if a wedding booking is accepted, the Parish Priest here, or an arranged substitute, may be able to help. Special donations will be required for booking such external non-parishioner weddings as a fair contribution to the upkeep of the Church, the expansion of administrative back-up services, insurance, and also for the provision of a Celebrant/Solemniser if the couple do not bring their own.

I hope that these considerations are helpful to you in understanding the practical and pastoral issues that our parish must face as we deal with so many wedding requests. If you decide to proceed with making a wedding booking request please read *The Weddings Policy of the Parish of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny* and then return the *Weddings Booking Request* form to me as soon as possible along with the accompanying documents and donation to our parish.

I will then get back to you as soon as possible to let you know if your request can be accepted or not.

In the meantime please be sure of my prayers for you both as you prepare yourselves spiritually to become lifelong sacraments to the world of the kind of love that the Lord has for us all. Is mise,

le beannachtaí



Very Reverend Conor Cunningham PP VF
Parish Priest of Lisdoonvarna and Kilshanny